

Message Text

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44

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 INT-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03 CU-02

AGR-05 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:LRMURRAY

APPROVED BY E :RPOATS

NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL

NEA/RA:KKOLB

CU:WHITCHCOCK

EB/CSB/OSB:RBUCK

AID/NESE:ARIVCHMOND

OES/SCI:DLOUBERT

S/S-O: M. TANNER

----- 036915

R 300008Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:USTSJC, TS

SUBJECT: U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION

REF: TUNIS 05106

1. EMBASSY WILL BE ADVISED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHICH DATE SEEMS MOST PROBABLE FOR SCHEDULING JOINT COMMISSION MEETING. NO DATE FOR PARIS MEETING HAS YET BEEN FIXED AND DECISION AS TO SCHEDULING AND ORGANIZATION OF JOINT COMMISSION MEETING WILL HAVE TO BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL PREPCON
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DATES ARE KNOWN.

2. RE PARA 4A REFTL, WE HAVE REVIEWED GOT SUGGESTION TO ESTABLISH THIRD SUBCOMMISSION ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL

AND CULTURAL COOPERATION, BUT VIEW HERE IS THAT ADDITIONAL FORMAL BODY WOULD ADD TO COMPLEXITIES OF MEETING, AND POSSIBLY WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE GOT TO MAKE UNREALISTIC ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF OBTAINING SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND COMMODITY AID THROUGH SUBCOMMISSION ON DEVELOPMENT. INCLUSION OF TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE (WHETHER PROVIDED THROUGH AID OR OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE U.S. INSTITUTIONS), SFCP AND VOLUNTARY AGENCY ACTIVITIES IN THE SCOPE OF DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMISSION WOULD PREVENT OVER-EMPHASIS IN THIS SUBCOMMISSION ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. THESE TOPICS ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO "DEVELOPMENT" IN BROAD SENSE. SUCH CONSOLIDATED AGENDA ALSO WILL HELP USG DEMONSTRATE SIGNIFICANT U.S. EFFORTS TO COOPERATE WITH TUNISIA WITHIN LIMITATIONS OF OUR RESOURCES. WE SHOULD DISCOURAGE GOT'S VIEWING THIS SUBCOMMISSION AS ONE DEALING ONLY WITH TRADITIONAL AID. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION IS THAT WE STILL WILL HAVE THESE BROADER AREAS OF COOPERATION AT BEGINNING NEXT DECADE, WHILE FUTURE OF TRADITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IS LESS SECURE.

3. DETAILED DISCUSSION OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND DEGREE EQUIVALENCE SHOULD BE HELD IN A PRIVATE MEETING OF CU REP AND APPROPRIATE GOT OFFICIAL (S) BEFORE FINAL PLENARY AND GIVEN SEPARATE TREATMENT IN DRAFT MINUTES AND DISCUSSION AT FINAL PLENARY SESSION.

4. IF PRESSED ON ISSUE, EMBASSY ALSO MAY WISH TO NOTE THAT USG WISHES TO HAVE SUBCOMMISSIONS CO-CHAired FOR AMERICAN SIDE BY OFFICIALS AT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL, AND THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO SCHEDULE EITHER CU OR OES OFFICER OF THIS RANK TO ATTEND OCTOBER MEETINGS.

5. RE PARA 4B, WE AGREE WITH GOT SUGGESTION THAT SUBCOMMISSION REPORTS COULD BE SUBMITTED TO FULL COMMISSION FOR REVIEW AND EVENTUAL INCLUSION IN MINUTES (PROCES VERBAL) TO BE INITIALED IN FINAL CLOSING PLENARY. CO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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CHAIRMEN'S REPRESENTATIVES WILL INCORPORATE THESE IN DRAFT CONSOLIDATED MINUTES; TAKING ACCOUNT OF ANY LEGAL OR POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS NEGLECTED BY SUBCOMMISSIONS, FOR REVIEW BY CO-CHAIRMEN ON EVE OF FINAL PLENARY SESSION.

6. RE PARA 4C, REVIEW OF WORKING DRAFT ON AGENDA STILL INCOMPLETE, BUT ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN AGENDA FOR TWO SUBCOMMISSIONS SHOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED.

7. WE AGREE MONASTIR HOSPITAL/HOPE SUBJECT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN SUBCOMMISSION ON DEVELOPMENT, BUT FEEL THAT THE QUESTION OF USE OF U.S.-OWNED DINAR DEPOSITS SHOULD

PROPERLY BE INCLUDED ON AGENDA FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT SUBCOMMISSION. OUR REASONS ARE THAT ISSUE IS MAINLY TECHNICAL AND IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF TREASURY, WHOSE REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE ON THIS SUBCOMMISSION. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES WE SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN HOW THESE LONGER TERM DEPOSITS ARE USED, AS LONG AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE TO U.S. GOVERNMENT UPON APPROPRIATE NOTICE. FOR THIS REASON, WE PREFER NOT TO USE THE TERM "RECYCLING."

8. SUGGESTION RE ALTERNATING CO-CHAIRMAN OF SUBCOMMISSIONS IS LOGICAL AND SHOULD FACILITATE PRESENTATION OF EACH SIDE'S STATEMENTS.

9. NOYES OF DOD/ISA WOULD PREFER TO VISIT TUNISIA AT LATER DATE, AND CONSEQUENTLY WE AGREE. SECURITY/MILITARY ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN FORMAL AGENDA. UNLIKELY DOD WILL BE REPRESENTED FROM WASHINGTON. GENERAL STATEMENTS AS TO OVERALL RELATIONS BETWEEN TUNISIA AND U.S. SEEM APPROPRIATE FOR FULL PLENARY.

10. RE PARAS 4D AND 4E, DEPARTMENT IS IN AGREEMENT.

11. RE PARA 4F, WE FORESEE REAL PROBLEMS. APART FROM DIFFICULTIES IN LOCATING AND FUNDING TRANSLATORS, LACK OF SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION FACILITIES WILL SEVERELY SLOW DOWN PACE OF MEETINGS AND LIMIT CHANCES OF SPONTANEOUS EXCHANGE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN TUNIS, AND STRONGLY URGE THAT MEETING BE HELD IN SUCH CONFERENCE FACILITIES IF POSSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE.

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12. RE PARA 4G, OES BUREAU HAS REQUESTED THAT WE NO LONGER USE TERM "MODEL AGREEMENT" AND THAT WE REFER TO IT AS "SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY SCIENCE PROGRAM AGREEMENT." ACCORDING TO OES, "MODEL" IS TERM WHICH CREPT IN BUT IS NOT REALLY APPROPRIATE. WE EXPECT THAT THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE READY FOR SIGNATURE AT TIME OF MEETING, BUT OES WISHES TO DOWNPLAY "EXPANSION OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION" ASPECT BECAUSE OF QUESTIONS ABOUT LONG TERM AVAILABILITY SURPLUS CURRENCY. IN ANY EVENT, THERE ARE NO PLANS TO INCREASE PROGRAMS ABOVE PRESENT COST LEVELS. OES WILL GIVE EMPHASIS TO "IMPROVED COORDINATION/COOPERATION."

13. AID WASHINGTON AGREES NEW TRUST FUND AGREEMENT CAN BE SIGNED AT MEETINGS IF READY.

14. TREASURY DOES NOT BELIEVE EARLY SEPTEMBER MEETING WITH TUNISIAN IMF/IBRD DELEGATION WILL RESULT IN ANY SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON ISSUE OF U.S.-OWNED DINAR BALANCES. AS EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED, KEY U.S. NEGOTIATOR WILL BE ABROAD IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, AND WORKING LEVEL

MEETING WILL HAVE TO BE SCHEDULED AT SOME LATER DATE. FYI,
DISCUSSIONS ON JOINT TAX TREATY WILL STILL BE HELD
SEPTEMBER 2-5, BUT TREASURY BELIEVES IT UNLIKELY THAT
TREATY WILL BE READY FOR SIGNATURE IN OCTOBER. INGERSOLL

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